

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

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ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1949, at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2nd February, 1949.
2. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship.
3. Announcement of election of new Fellows.
4. Additions to the Library.

Presented.

Ford, R. L. E. *What British Butterfly is That?* 8vo. London. 1949. [The Author.]

Commonwealth Institute of Entomology. *Report of the Fifth Commonwealth Entomological Conference, 22nd-30th July, 1948.* 8vo. London. 1948. [The Commonwealth Institute of Entomology.]

Royal Society. *Scientific Information Conference, 21st June-2nd July, 1948.* 8vo. London. 1948. [The Royal Society.]

Stokoe, W. J. *The Caterpillars of British Moths.* Edited by G. H. T. Stovin. 2 vols. Sm. 8vo. London. 1948. [The Publishers.]

Purchased.

Allan, P. B. M. *Moths and Memories.* 8vo. London. 1948.

In addition separates have been presented by Mr. D. S. Kettle, the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. A. D. Imms, the Publishers of the *Crown Colonist*, Mr. M. Niblett and Mr. W. J. Le Quesne.

5. Exhibits.

Fellows are particularly requested to bring suitable exhibits to the Meeting even though it may not be possible to announce their intention to do so beforehand.

Note.—To avoid congestion in the Library and to enable exhibits to be displayed to greater advantage, a table has been placed in the meeting room for this purpose. Fellows are asked to place their exhibits on this table, with a suitable explanatory note, as soon as possible on the afternoon of the meeting, so that they are available for inspection there before the meeting opens.

6. Admission of Fellows.
7. Communications.

1. Dr. W. H. Thorpe.

Notes on some British aquatic weevils.

[ABSTRACT]

Within the genera *Bagous*, *Hydronomus*, *Phytobius*, *Tanysphyrus*, *Stenopelinus* are comprised a whole series of species ranging from purely terrestrial to fully aquatic. Many are considered very rare and little is known about them, but the principal adaptations which enable these insects to colonize aquatic habitats are now understood, at least in part, and will be described.

Coleopterists will find that these insects offer many interesting opportunities for further research, both in the field and in the aquarium.

2. Mr. J. D. Bletchly.

A comparative investigation into the mouth-parts of certain Diptera.

[ABSTRACT]

An account will be given of an anatomical investigation carried out in the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University, into the mouth-parts of *Scopeuma stercoraria* (L.) (CORDYLURIDAE), *Empis livida* (L.) (EMPIDIDAE) and *Rhagio scolopacea* (L.) (RHAGIONIDAE), which were studied in detail for the first time. Special attention was paid to the functions of the mouth parts, with particular reference to their adaptations to feeding habits and, in this connection, the structure of the labral blades in *Empis* are of particular interest. The homologies of the specialized structures were also considered. Further, a satisfactory technique for sectioning sclerotised mouth parts was found.

TEA will be served in the Library before the meeting.

A card index of Fellows' addresses arranged on a geographical basis is now available for the use of Fellows in the Society's Rooms. Addresses in Great Britain are grouped under counties: elsewhere under Dominions, Colonies, Foreign States, etc.

ADMISSION OF FELLOWS

Any Fellow who has not been formally admitted to the Society under Chapter XIV, Section 4 of the Bye-laws and attends the meeting on 2nd March, 1949, is requested to inform the Secretary before 5.15 p.m. on that date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 1949.

Dr. V. B. Wigglesworth, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Present, 56 Fellows and 8 Visitors.

The President announced that he had appointed Dr. A. M. Massee, Dr. W. H. Thorpe and Dr. C. B. Williams as Vice-Presidents for the coming year.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th January, 1949, were confirmed and signed by the President.

The names of the following candidates for election were read: For the first time: Major E. L. B. James, R.A., and G. H. Jones, M.P.S.

For the second time: A. E. M. Ali, J. F. Burton, G. H. Caswell, K. U. Clarke, Lt.-Commander A. Latif, R.P.N.V.R., M.Sc., Miss M. Maryon, W. A. Page, and M. A. H. Qadri.

The Secretary read the names of the following newly elected Fellows of the Society: N. M. Bailey, Hill Crest, Ash Grove, Limesfield, Bury, Lancs.; G. A. Brett, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., D.I.C., 2, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey; Miss D. M. Evans, Printing and Allied Trades Research Association, Patra House, Leatherhead, Surrey; R. C. B. Hartland-Rowe, 80, Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon; L. N. Kidd, 46, Eton Avenue, Coppice, Oldham, Lancs.; J. A. MacArthur, North of Scotland College of Agriculture, 41½ Union Street, Aberdeen; E. J. Popham, D.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.Z.S., Department of Zoology, The University, Manchester, 13; F. S. Tivey, Edale, 15, Windsor Avenue, Melbourne, Derbyshire; G. H. Youden, Greenhurst, 63, Salisbury Road, Dover, Kent.

Thanks were voted to donors of gifts to the Library since the last meeting.

The Secretary read the following statement by Council concerning a circular letter recently sent by Professor W. A. F. Balfour-Browne to Fellows of the Society:

"Council has given consideration to a letter recently circulated to Fellows of the Society by Professor W. A. F. Balfour-Browne. Council have examined the facts concerning Part 9 of the *Generic Names of British Insects*, and have satisfied themselves that, although there has been considerable delay, the paper will not suffer in consequence. However, whatever the merits of the case, Council take the strongest exception to the letter circulated by Professor Balfour-Browne, which is both inaccurate and misleading. They would point out that his complaint should have been addressed in the first instance to the Generic Names Committee, of which he is himself a member, and subsequently if necessary to the Officers of the Society at the Society's address, not to them elsewhere as private individuals. Council take this opportunity of reminding Fellows that adequate means are provided under the Bye-Laws for the investigation of any complaint as to the conduct of the Society's affairs."

The President called the attention of Fellows to a Joint Meeting with the Food Group of the Society of Chemical Industry arranged for Wednesday, 23rd February, at 6 p.m., in the Library of the Royal Sanitary Institute, a notice of which appeared on page 3.

Dr. W. H. Trethowen and Mr. R. G. Davies signed the Obligation Book and were admitted Fellows of the Society.

Communications were made by Mr. J. F. Gates Clarke and Dr. O. W. Richards, abstracts of which appeared on page 2.

In the discussion following Dr. Richards' paper the President said that an analogous case of self-regulation of numbers in repetitive structures was seen in the formation of new plaques at moulting in *Rhodnius*. Dr. C. B. Williams Mr. G. J. Kerrieh and Mr. C. N. Hawkins also took part in the discussion on this paper.

Mr. Paul Freeman exhibited a series of photographs, kindly made available by the New Zealand Tourist Department, of the New Zealand Glow-worm, *Arachnocampa luminosa* Skuse (Diptera, MYCETOPHILIDAE). In the explanatory note accompanying his exhibit he said that the species was widely distributed in New Zealand where it lived in damp ravines, crevices, tunnels, caves, etc. It had attracted particular attention in some caves, especially those at Waitomo, which were much visited by tourists. The larva was luminous and lived on the roof of the caves, where it formed a web of fine threads to which it added globules of hygroscopic glutinous matter. Numerous loose threads hung down from the web and these were provided with sticky globules, so that, so long as there was no wind, they had the appearance of strings of beads up to a foot long. The larvae fed on small insects caught in the webs, and it was believed that their luminosity attracted prey to the threads. The adult flies, however, did not appear to be attracted by the light of their larvae. The photographs showed individual larvae, a pupa slung in a cradle of threads, an adult fly, prey entangled in the threads, and two views of the caves as they appear to tourists.

Dr. A. P. Kapur exhibited about 600 examples of the herbivorous lady-bird beetle, *Epilachna 28-punctata* (Fabr.), bred from known parents in Java by Dr. L. G. E. Kalshoven. The progeny of each couple varied greatly from the parents in the shape and number of the elytral spots. In general, the number of spots varied between 12 and 28 on both the elytra, and in a few cases as many as seven spots on an elytron were found confluent with one another.

Mr. H. Oldroyd exhibited a series of Diptera from the collections of the late C. J. Wainwright now in the British Museum (Natural History).

N. D. RILEY, *Honorary Secretary.*

The next meeting will be held on 6th April at 5.30 p.m.